PRESENT—*cont.*

Raman Menon, Mr. K. P.
Ramamurti, Pandit Ganala.
Ramamurti, I.C.S., Mr. S. V.
Ramaswami Ayyar, Mr. T. S.
Ramaswami Mudaliyar, Mr. V. M.
Ranganatha Mudaliyar, Mr. A.
Ranganatha Mudaliyar, Mr. G.
Ranganatha Mudaliyar, Mr. M. D. T.
Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar, Rao Bahadur C. S.
Sahajanandam, Swami A. S.
Sami Venkatachalam Chetti, Mr.
Satyanarayana Choudari, Mr. C.
Sesha Reddi, Mr. B. P.
Shetty, Mr. A. B.
Simhachalam Pantulu, Mr. Gade.
Singam Ayyangar, Mr. K.
Siva Raj, Mr. N.
Sivasubrahmanya Ayyar, Mr. K. S.
Soundara Pandian, Mr. W. P. A.
Sriramulu, Mr. G.
Sreshta, Mr. M. S.
Srinivasa Ayyangar, Mr. T. C.
Subbarayan, Dr. P.
Subrahmanyam Chetti, Rao Sahib P.
Subrahmanya Bhatt, Mr. U. C.
Sundara Rao Nayudu, Mr. T.
Tajuddin Sahib Bahadur, Khan Sahib Syed.
Thomas, Mr. Daniel.
Vasudeva Pillai, Mr. V. G.
Vedachala Mudaliyar, Mr. M.
Venkatachala Reddiyar, Mr. K. C. M.
Venkatarama Ayyar, Mr. K. R.
Venkataramayya, Rao Sahib Badeti.
Venugopal Nayudu, Rao Bahadur R. K.
Watson, I.C.S., Mr. H. A.
Yahya Ali Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur.
Yakub Hasan Sahib Bahadur.
Zamindar of Bodinayakanur.
Zamindar of Chemudu.
Zamindar of Ettaiyapuram.
Zamindar of Mirzapuram.

I.—SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS.

The following Members made the prescribed oath or affirmation of allegiance to the Crown and then took their seats :—

M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar Avargal.

M.R.Ry. Rao Sahib A. S. Alagannan Chettiyar Avargal.

Mr. R. Foulkes.

The Maharaja of Venkatagiri (Sri Raja Velugoti Sir Govinda Krishna Yachendrulu Varu Bahadur, K.C.I.E., Lieut.-Col.).

M.R.Ry. K. S. Sivasubrahmanya Ayyar Avargal.

[Vide page 55 infra.]

II.—ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

His Excellency the Governor who arrived at the Council Chamber in State addressed the House as follows :—

" Mr. President and hon. Members of the Legislative Council—I am very glad to open this fourth Council and to welcome to it many old members whose acquaintance I have already made and others whose acquaintance I hope to make shortly.

" To you, Mr. President, may I be allowed to offer my most sincere congratulations on the honour that has been accorded to you by your unanimous election to the office of President ? It is an honour which you have earned by your unfailing attention to the affairs of the Council for seven years and I feel sure that you will fill that office with dignity and impartiality and thereby follow worthily the example of those who have preceded you in the chair. They have already established a precedent for impartiality and fairness which will be of inestimable advantage to this and to future Councils and I am fully confident that the precedent they have set will lose none of its power at your hands.

" This Council opens at a momentous time. The Round Table Conference held its first meeting and was addressed by His Majesty the King-Emperor on November the 12th. Although no one can foretell what the final issue will be, no one should entertain any idea of failure. Personally

18th November 1930] [His Excellency the Governor]

I feel quite certain that if all would combine in an earnest endeavour to find a solution of the difficulties which are admittedly present, those difficulties need not be insuperable. It is all the more regrettable therefore that a certain section which is only a small fraction of the millions of the population of India but is organized, has not only held aloof from these deliberations but has adopted a line of action which, far from furthering the cause its adherents profess to have at heart, is much more calculated to injure it. The policy which they advocated was bound to lead to results which they themselves deprecate and indeed such results have been seen in parts of India though, I am glad to say, not to so great an extent in this Province as in some others. There have been, as you know, acts of civil disobedience by misguided people and I would wish now to thank all those, both officials and non-officials, of whom there have been very many, who have assisted the Government in their opposition to the challenge which was thrown out to them. It was a challenge that no Government could refuse to take up and I say here and now that the Government could not and will not hesitate to use all the resources they think necessary to oppose a movement which if it were successful, would speedily result in chaos and anarchy, however peaceful the intentions of its originators might have been.

"I turn to the recent elections which I am glad to say have been carried out in a practical and orderly manner. An analysis of the figures shows that they have resulted in the election of 65 Non-Brahmans, 13 Muhammadans, nine Brahmans, five Indian Christians, five Europeans and one Anglo-Indian; the percentage of votes cast has been 43, a decrease of 5 per cent since the last election; and the number of women voters who have exercised the franchise has been 17,836, out of a total of 98,680. With regard to the elections themselves, there is one aspect in respect of which Madras has not advanced politically so far as in other directions. Political opinion has not yet crystallized itself into definite parties each of which has its own adherents who belong to it on principle. There were a large number of Independent candidates owning allegiance to neither party but ready to join either party after the election. This I consider most unsound and, so far as I am concerned, I shall not, in computing the figures after an election, include in a party any one who has not definitely stood on that party ticket—nor, under normal circumstances should I consider any such member for the position of Minister. I realize fully that there are sectional feelings which create a certain amount of difficulty but I cannot bring myself to believe that difficulty cannot be surmounted.

"I regret to have to state that during the last few weeks there have been 11-15 a.m. very serious floods in the Tanjore and Trichinopoly districts. It is too early yet to say what the extent of the damage may be, but steps are being taken to ascertain the true state of affairs. I intend to make a personal tour in those districts in two days time and I shall endeavour to discover what may be the best course to take to relieve the distress which must necessarily be the direct consequence of the floods.

"The most important and distressing feature of all India concern which has had a direct influence on the affairs of this Presidency during the months since the Council last met has been the slump in trade and the deepening of economic depression. This is the result of two distinct causes.

[His Excellency the Governor] [18th November 1930

" The first is the world-wide trade depression which has accompanied a rapid fall in wholesale prices and particularly in prices of agricultural and other primary products. This has very largely affected India along with the other countries of the world whose exports consist mainly of agricultural produce.

" The second is the general feeling of uncertainty which has been caused by the civil disobedience movement. Though the trade of this Presidency has not been so directly affected as that of other parts of India we here have felt the repercussion.

" The economic depression not only affects the people directly but also has an indirect effect owing to the diminution in Government revenue and consequently in the amount which Government can spend on what are commonly called nation-building activities. You will perhaps realize the position more clearly when I tell you that the revenue under the five major heads of 'Land Revenue', 'Excise,' 'Stamps', 'Forests' and 'Registration' shows a fall in the first six months of the current financial year of over 37 lakhs of rupees. It is to be feared that this fall will continue, probably in an increasing degree, for although political conditions may have improved, the effects of the fall in prices of agricultural produce have yet to be experienced in their greatest intensity owing to the fact that the fall has occurred very largely subsequent to the marketing of the last harvests, and we have therefore to face the possibility that the agricultural population will only experience the worst of the depression when the time comes to harvest the crops which are now on the ground. The revenue to be expected next year on the present basis of taxation will suffice only for the continuance of Government's activities on their present level and will not permit of a continuance of that rapid development which has been so marked a feature of the finances of this Presidency from the time of the remission of the provincial contributions. While this is to be greatly regretted, we have the small consolation of knowing that Madras will still be better off in this respect than the greater part of India ; and we hope that, while the further extension of Government's activities may be temporarily arrested, it will not be necessary to cut down the present scale. My Government are prepared to finance the whole programme for which provision was made in the budget of the current year and we trust that it will not be necessary to start an active policy of retrenchment. Although in this respect Madras has reaped the benefits of the political common sense of the bulk of its people, it cannot altogether escape the results of the financial conditions of India as a whole. The Government of Madras borrow money from the Government of India and the rate of interest which they have to pay has risen owing to the rise in the rate which the Government of India have to pay in the open market. This naturally affects the rate at which the Government of Madras can lend to ryots and local bodies. Not only has the rate of interest risen but also the amount which the Government of Madras can borrow has been seriously affected so that there will be much less money available for loans to local bodies and the little available will be at a higher rate of interest.

" Since I have been in this Presidency I have been met on my various tours with the constant demand for more schools, hospitals and other facilities for the improvement of the people. I would like to impress upon the elected and nominated representatives of the people of this Presidency who are assembled here to-day that even when times are prosperous the revenues

18th November 1930] [His Excellency the Governor]

which we derive are very small in comparison with the demands which are made upon us. But I can assure you that it is the earnest desire of my Government to see that all the resources which we can spare are properly and wisely spent upon the improvement of the conditions of those who inhabit this Presidency. In particular, I should like to mention our policy as regards the very important subject of Education. I think an impartial examiner would admit that, considering the limited funds available the Government of Madras have been far from illiberal in the past, and as I have already said I hope that we shall be able to continue our existing grants. We have however come to the conclusion that the primary need is an extension of elementary education. If education is to be general, it will, I think, be readily admitted that there is little use in multiplying secondary schools, colleges and universities until there is a sound sub-structure underneath. We have therefore decided that in future the funds available shall be primarily devoted to the spread of elementary education.

"I would also like to refer briefly to the engineering projects which my Government are executing. I have recently been able to pay a visit to Mettur and I am glad to be able to say that the execution of the works there which owing to certain unavoidable causes, had not been progressing so fast as the engineers would have wished, is now proceeding very satisfactorily. The construction of the Pykara Hydro-Electric Scheme is also well on its way and it is hoped that power will be supplied by the end of 1932. Both these projects should be of great benefit to the Presidency and it is to be hoped that they will come up to expectations.

"Mr. President and hon. Members of Council—It seems to be more than probable that this will be the last Council elected under the present system. I would like therefore to express my congratulations to your predecessors who have made the Madras Legislative Council an outstanding success in India and I am convinced that you are determined that this Council shall not fall short of the high standard that they have set. If you should need it, I am ready at any time to give you any advice and assistance that may lie in my power, and I offer you my most heartfelt good wishes in the work which lies before you."

His Excellency then left the Council Chamber.

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

III.—RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE.

* The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"Mr. President, Sir, before we resume the regular business of the Council, it is my painful duty to-day to refer to the death of an hon. Member of this House, Mr. V. N. Kuppu Rao. As you all know, he was an Advocate and a distinguished criminal lawyer of our city. By his premature and untimely death, this Council has been deprived of his services. I beg to move :—

'*That an expression of the sincere regret of this Council at the death of Mr. V. N. Kuppu Rao, M.L.C., and of deep sympathy with his bereaved family be placed on record and conveyed to them*'."

* Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"Mr. President, I beg to second the resolution moved by my hon. Friend, the Leader of the House. It was only the other day that Mr. Kuppu Rao took his oath of allegiance to the Crown after his